

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission**

ITEM

6

DECISION

TOPIC

Loess Hills State Forest, Harrison County – William & Shirley Harl

The Natural Resource Commission's approval is requested to purchase a tract of land located in Harrison County adjacent west and north of state-owned and managed Loess Hills State Forest. William and Shirley Harl offer this 80-acre tract for the appraised price of \$156,000.

Donald Kearn, Licensed Appraiser of Atlantic, Iowa, submitted the appraisal. Rick Hansen negotiated the purchase agreement.

This property is located one mile northeast of Little Sioux in northwestern Harrison County. The tract is primarily forested and reflects gently sloping to very steep topography. The property's outer rim/ridge offers a scenic view of the Missouri River bottomlands. A picturesque grassed valley is located in the northeast quadrant of the tract. A former stagecoach road remains visible through the southeast region of the tract. The property is absent building improvements. The property is bordered on the west by Larpenteur Memorial Road, a designated Scenic Byway.

This aesthetic tract will increase the Little Sioux Unit to over 3,430 acres, and will provide wildlife habitat, improve surface water quality, and enhance public recreation to this area. The Forestry Bureau will manage the property in accord with the area management plan.

Acquisition funding will be provided by federal Transportation Improvement (TI) funds (80%) with the remainder from the DNR Forestry Bureau. Incidental closing costs will be the responsibility of the Department.

Staff recommends approval of the land acquisition.

Sally Jagnandan, Interim Administrator
Management Services Division
December 11, 2008

Attachment